



The Battlefield Dispatch

Chickamauga Battlefield – LaFayette Road Construction in 2015

Did you know LaFayette Road in Chickamauga Battlefield will be repaved this year? If you use this road, please keep in mind there may be delays into June.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is advising the public of LaFayette Road closures for a resurfacing project that will begin in March 2015 and continue through June 2015.

The road closure will be completed using three phases of construction:

The first phase will begin on or about March 2, 2015, and is scheduled to continue through April 10, 2015. This phase will include replacing the traffic light at the Reeds Bridge Road/McFarland Gap Road intersection and asphalt resurfacing extending to, but not including, the Glenn-Kelly Road/Alexander Bridge Road intersection.

During this phase, temporary employee and visitor parking to the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center will be provided in North McDonald Field, adjacent to the visitor center. Handicap parking will be provided near the visitor center throughout the project.

The second phase will begin on or about April 11, 2015, and is scheduled to continue through May 10, 2015. This

phase will include the Glenn-Kelly Road/Alexander Bridge Road intersection and extend to Brotherton Road, near Tour Stop 4.

The third phase will begin on or about May 11, 2015, and is scheduled to continue through June 14, 2015. This phase will extend from Brotherton Road, near Tour Stop 4, to the park's southern boundary.

Please keep in mind that ALL roads within the park boundary will be affected by this closure. There will be access for government and emergency vehicle service at all times.

For more information about this road closure, please contact Jeffry Thul, Chief of Facilities Management, at 423-752-5213 x 125



Looking north along LaFayette Road from the park's south entrance

Programs Coming this Spring!

FEBRUARY

Title: Winter Vistas

Date: Saturday, February 7

Time: 2-4 pm

Place: Lookout Mountain Battlefield

Fee: Free

Title: A Demand for Blood - Cherokee War of 1776

Date: Saturday, February 14

Time: 2-3 pm

Place: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District

Fee: Free

MARCH

Title: The Irish at Chickamauga

Date: Saturday, March 14

Time: 10am-12 pm

Place: Chickamauga Battlefield

Fee: Free

Title: Starvation Point - Moccasin Bend in 1863

Date: Saturday, March 14

Time: 2-3:30 pm

Place: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District

Fee: Free

"Programs" continued on Page 4

Superintendent's Sidebar

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

The dawning of a new year is traditionally a time to make resolutions – promises of what we hope to accomplish in the months ahead. As you can see in these pages, we have planned an exciting array of programs and projects to enhance your visit.

In 2015, you will witness landscape and monument restoration, trail improvements, and new ranger-led experiences. If you have yet to explore the recently opened 10-acre site of the future visitor center on Moccasin Bend, take some time to stroll across this meadow and enjoy the views of downtown Chattanooga, the Tennessee River, the southern tip of Stringer's Ridge, and Lookout Mountain.

As we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, our goal is to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. How can you help? Next time you visit, invite someone you know – a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor – who has yet to discover their local national park. You may learn about other ways to get involved – such as volunteering or joining a Friends group -- through the "Support Your Park" page on our website.

Thank you for visiting – and supporting – your national park.



Moccasin Bend Loses a Dear Friend and Advocate

By Friends of Moccasin Bend Executive Director Michael Wurzel

Dear Supporters of the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park,

It is with great regret that we inform you that retired Executive Director Shelley Andrews passed away on January 27, 2015. Shelley was an inspiration to us all and our community's greatest advocate for development of Moccasin Bend National Archeological District.

Shelley considered one of her greatest accomplishments at the Friends to be the opening of the Brown's Ferry Federal Road for public use. Now, this trail commemorates not only the Trail of Tears and Civil War history, but also the memory of Shelley's endearing work as an advocate for the Friends, the National Park Service, and Native American tribes from 2003 to 2014. Shelley guided me through my first experiences as Executive Director of the Friends, and her enthusiasm and steady drive to make Moccasin Bend a better place will no doubt continue to offer inspiration and guidance to myself and the board.

Shelley would not want us to waver in our mission to preserve Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, enhance and grow visitor experiences there, and build a community of supporters dedicated to conserving the park for the future. The Friends of Moccasin Bend are working directly with NPS staff to dedicate a tree to Shelley on Moccasin Bend as a living tribute to her life's work and spirit.



By Park Ranger Christopher Young

In echoing the news from the Friends of Moccasin Bend, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park lost one of our greatest advocates and a dear friend with Shelley's passing. In planning for the future interpretive center to increased programming and public access to Moccasin Bend, her drive was always palpable and contagious.

Without her, Moccasin Bend National Archeological District and its partnerships would not be where they are today. Shelley was a true inspiration to all of us who wear the green and gray uniform of the National Park Service, and there will not be a program conducted on Moccasin Bend without our thoughts turning to the legacy she left on HER national park.



Shelley addresses participants during the dedication of the Brown's Ferry Federal Road Trace on Moccasin Bend in October 2013



Superintendent Brad Bennett presents Shelley with an arrowhead plaque for her retirement

NPS Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss to present special programs in Chattanooga

By Friends of the Park Executive Director
Patrice Glass

The Friends of the Park are pleased to host National Park Service Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss for several special programs on Sunday, March 15 and Monday, March 16. Serving as chief historian of the NPS from 1981 to 1994, Mr. Bearss lead the way in Civil War battlefield preservation in the late 20th century and is now the subject of the documentary *American Journey: The Life and Times of Ed Bearss*. Film maker David Currey will share clips from the documentary followed by a discussion with Bearss. The park and the Friends will host this special evening program in the chapel of The McCallie School, 500 Dodds Avenue, Chattanooga, at

7 pm on Monday, March 16. The program is free and open to the public. Mr. Bearss will be available following the presentation to sign copies of the documentary and his books. Eastern National, the park's bookstore, will have Bearss' books available for purchase at the event.

Additional opportunities with Ed Bearss:

Known for his quick step, booming voice, and ability to transport participants back in time through personal stories and vivid descriptions, Bearss is a sought after Civil War field guide. Still leading tours at age 91, Bearss will conduct a tour of Civil War actions in McLemore's Cove on

Sunday, March 15. The three hour ticketed bus tour is sponsored by the Friends of the Park. Tour details and ticket information is available at www.friendsofchch.org.

Join the Friends for "A Conversation with Ed Bearss" on Monday, March 16. This limited ticket luncheon will offer thirty participants the opportunity to meet Mr. Bearss, discuss Civil War history, and ask historical questions of the man that *Smithsonian Magazine* called "a rock star in Civil War circles." Additional details about the luncheon to be held at the Mountain City Club in downtown Chattanooga are available at www.friendsofchch.org or by calling the Friends office at 423-648-5623.

Finding Their Footsteps

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

When the park was established as the nation's first national military park in 1890, both Union and Confederate veterans worked to identify the precise locations of each unit on the battlefield at Chickamauga and around Chattanooga, and these locations were marked with distinct cast iron tablets. Today, these iron tablets allow visitors to visit the areas of the battlefields where their ancestors fought and died.

In order to identify where on the battlefield a soldier fought, visitors need to know what regiment he served with. In many cases this information can be obtained from the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS), a database created by the National Park Service. The CWSS can be accessed at go.nps.gov/cwss and will usually have soldiers' names, regiments, and companies. Once the regiment has been identified, a member of the park staff at the visitor center desk can help identify the locations of any tablets or markers.

Some visitors want to know more detailed information about the soldiers that fought here. In these cases soldiers' service and pension records are the best source. The best source of service records and pension records are the National Archives. Copies can be requested by visiting www.archives.gov. If the National Archives has the records you are looking for, they will charge a fee to make copies. The National Archives maintains limited Confederate service records. However, most records from various Confederate units are maintained by their respective states.

Some records are available online through genealogical research companies. These companies charge a fee and there is no guarantee that they will have the records that you are looking for. In most cases they are simply providing copies of records held at the National Archives. The most prominent of these sites are www.ancestry.com and www.familysearch.org, which are basic genealogical research assistance sites, and www.fold3.com, which specializes in military records, including Confederate service records.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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Phone
706-866-9241

Website
www.nps.gov/chch

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Soldier Sculptor

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

Take a walk along the line of Wilder's Brigade at the Viniard farm* on the Chickamauga Battlefield. Near the north end is the 18th Indiana Battery monument. Compare it to other Hoosier monuments on the battlefield, even those elsewhere on the Viniard farm; it is more extensively ornamented than most. Unlike the majority of the stone cutters who hewed and sculpted the monuments, the 18th Indiana's was the product of a craftsman with a real connection to this place—Sidney A. Speed, a veteran of the battle and of the 18th Battery.

Born in June of 1846, Speed was the son of a Scottish stone mason whose work, after emigrating to the United States, included public buildings in Washington, DC, and the 1840 North Carolina State Capitol (still in use today). Speed's father was also an abolitionist who assisted African Americans escaping slavery on their

flight to Canada.

Speed enlisted in July of 1862, when Greencastle pharmacist Eli Lilly organized the 18th. At Alexander's Bridge on September 18, 1863, Speed threw a still burning Confederate



**Tour Stop 5; crossing the "Ditch of Death" on the footbridge adjacent to the Heg Shell Pyramid, the 18th's monument is to your right front, flanked by several cannon.*

shell that landed amongst one of the gun crews over an adjacent structure before it exploded. Lilly included the incident in his battle report and it is mentioned on the battery tablet at the Alexander House site. Years later an unsuccessful attempt was made to have Speed awarded the Medal of Honor.

Returning home to Crawfordsville, Indiana, after the war, in 1875, he followed his father into the stone cutting business and was also a dealer in tombstones. When the national military park was created and the State of Indiana undertook to erect monuments here, Speed got the contract for his battery. It, like the other Hoosier monuments, is of Indiana oolitic limestone. Speed personally oversaw its erection in 1896. While he did not receive a contract for any of Indiana's Shiloh monuments, his other work includes roles in the gravestone and monument for General Lew Wallace.

Programs Coming this Spring - Continued

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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MARCH (continued)

Title: Women's Army Corps (WAC) Program
Date: Saturday, March 21
Time: 2-3 pm
Place: Chickamauga Battlefield
Fee: Free

APRIL

Title: Controversial Crossings - Removal on the Bend
Date: Saturday, April 11
Time: 2-3:30 pm
Place: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District
Fee: Free

Title: The War Ends?
Date: Saturday, April 18
Time: 2-4 pm
Place: Chickamauga Battlefield
Fee: Free

For additional information regarding special programs, including locations, driving and/or walking distances, etc. please contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241 or the Lookout Mountain Visitor Center at 423-821-7786. You may also wish to visit the park website at www.nps.gov/chch or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chchnps.

facebook